



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, DC 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

SEARCHED
 MAILED
 INDEXED
 FILED
 RECORDED

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No. 08/573,569	Applicant(s) Maassab H. et al.
Examiner Gottlieb	Group Art Unit 1813



Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) 1-11, 13-22, and 24-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 12, 23, and 27 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7, drawn to nucleic acids from influenza viruses and DNA sequences complementary to theses nucleic acids, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
 - II. Claims 8, 22, 25, and 26, drawn to nucleic acids and polynucleotides of influenza virus, specifically M, PB1, PA, PB2, HA and NA sequences , classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
 - III. Claims 12, 23, and, 27, drawn to a vaccine comprising a reassortant influenza virus, cold-adapted with wild type NA and HA proteins, classified in class 424, subclass 209.1.
 - IV. Claims 19 and 20, drawn to methods for the prevention and treatment of influenza virus infection, classified in class 424, subclass 93.3.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together, or they have different modes of operation, or they have different functions, or they have different effects. (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the

Art Unit: 1813

instant case the different inventions I and II are drawn to different nucleic acid sequences derived from influenza virus strains, in particular both inventions include variant sequences of the PB2 gene.

3. Inventions III and IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case Invention III is drawn to a vaccine for influenza A virus and Invention IV is drawn to a method for the treatment on an influenza A virus infection. Treatment and prevention of an influenza A infection need not be performed with the product of Invention III and prevention of said infection is possible with a multiple of unique vaccines such as subunit vaccines or inactivated vaccines .

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications, restriction for examination as indicated is proper.

5. During a telephone conversation with Ms. Antionette F. Konski on February 7, 1997 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group III, claims 12, 23, and 27. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in responding to

Art Unit: 1813

this Office action. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 19, 20, 22, 25, and 26 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

6. *Applicant's comments regarding the remaining groups were not persuasive. As explained above and in the previous Office Action, the inventions were properly distinguished according to the rules and represent a serious burden upon the examiner. Therefore the restriction regarding these inventions is maintained and made final.*

7. *Claims 12 and 27 are amended.*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 12 and 27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cox et al (Virology 1988, 167:554-567). The claimed invention is directed to a vaccine comprising a reassortant virus, the virus further comprising polynucleotides coding for the surface proteins of Influenza A virus HA and NA from selected wild type strains. The other proteins of the claimed

Art Unit: 1813

invention are encoded by polynucleotides for influenza A viral sequences and are encoding the PB1, PA, M, proteins of a cold-adapted influenza virus and a polynucleotide (SEQ ID No. 15) encoding PB2 polymerase protein. Claim 27 is directed to a viral vaccine form a reassortant virus with a further limitation utilizing the nucleic acid sequence of claim 12 i.e SEQ ID No. 15.

10. The Cox et al reference teaches the identification of sequence changes in the cold-adapted (ca), live attenuated vaccine strain, A/Ann Arbor/6/60 (H2N2). The reassortant viruses that are described derive their hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) genes from an epidemic variant virus with five or six other genes originating from the ca A/Ann Arbor/6/60 parent virus. They further teach that the ca reassortant viruses have utility in the production of live attenuated influenza vaccines as the five or six internal genes of the ca donor strain are expected to have uniform biological and attenuation properties (Introduction, 1st and 2nd columns). In this reference are presented the entire nucleotide sequences for the six genes of both the wild type and ca A/Ann Arbor/6/60 viruses that are relevant for producing reassortant candidate vaccine viruses. The relevant sequences and proteins that are needed for the vaccine strain production are identified as PB1, PA, M (M1 and M2) and PB2. The sequence SEQ ID No. 15, the PB2 encoding sequence, is presented in Figure 6, page 563 of this reference. The information within this article describing the relevant proteins of the ca quality of influenza A and their sequences formed the basis for rejection of claim 12. The sequence information for SEQ ID No. 15 from the reference along with the viruses designation as a vaccine strain form the basis for the rejection of claim 27.

11. *Applicant asserts that the PB2 encoding sequence of Cox et al is not represented by sequence ID No. 15. However Figure 6 of said reference clearly indicates the nucleotides of seq ID No. 15 at positions 141 and 821, which are designated above the wild type sequence (denoted "mt"). The nucleotide at position 1933 is denoted as "x" in said mutant category, presumably indicating a sequence variation. In addition the substitution of cytosine at position 1933 changes the codon from TTG (encoding leucine) to CTG (also encoding leucine), therefore seq ID No. 15 encodes the same amino acid at this position as that in Figure 6. Accordingly Cox et al does anticipate the claimed invention.*

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 12, 23, and 27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al and Maassab et al (J. Infect. Dis. 1982, 146(6):780-790). Cox et al teaches an approach for producing live attenuated influenza A vaccines of new epidemic variants by reassortment with a cold-adapted mutant donor strain. The reference describes reassortant viruses that contain HA and NA genes from clinically relevant epidemic strains of the H1N1 and H3N2 variants now endemic in the human population. The reference further teaches that the five or six internal genes

Art Unit: 1813

are derived from the ca A/Ann Arbor/6/60 parental virus type and the vaccine virus combination is the consequence of mating of this ca virus with the clinical strain (Introduction, 1st paragraph). The reference presents the sequence information of the entire nucleotide sequences for the six genes of both the wt and ca variant in Figures 5-6. The actual sequence differences between the ca and wt viruses are emphasized in Table 1, page 564 of this reference. The reference further teaches that during clinical studies conducted with investigational ca Influenza A vaccines derived from the ca A/Ann Arbor/6/60 virus no revertants were detected nor was reversion detected in experiments in ferrets (page 564, 2nd paragraph).

14. Maassab et al teaches that in experiments with the ca A/Ann Arbor/6/60 (H2N2) in ferrets cold recombinants with six genes derived from the ca "master strain" and the two surface proteins from the wt parent strain were attenuated and genetically stable (abstract). The reference further teaches the intranasal inoculation of the vaccine strain using varying doses of the appropriate clone of the ca recombinant strain in a sterile broth carrier. The ca vaccine reassortant was seen to be unable to replicate in the test animal lungs and grew to lower titers in the nasal turbinates in contrast to the wild type virus (Table 1, page 782).

15. Based upon the above art it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to produce an live Influenza A vaccine using a cold-adapted "master" or parental strain and to incorporate its ca qualities into a clinically relevant strain by a mating and reassorting methodology. Based upon the sequence data for the internal viral proteins

Art Unit: 1813

presented in the Cox et al art the relevant mutations that are responsible for the ca phenotype would be immediately obvious. The initial master strain could be created by the incorporation/rescue of these sequences into a helper virus with selection to create the ca master strain of the type described within the claimed invention. Based upon the data and methods presented in the above art one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to incorporate the virus into a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, sterile broth, for use in intranasal inoculation in both test animals and humans.

16. *Applicant asserts Cox et al do not teach the PB2 gene of the claimed invention, seq ID No. 15. As related above said sequence is taught in Figure 6 of the reference therefore the rejection is maintained.*

17. All the claims are rejected.

18. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

Art Unit: 1813

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for response expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Gottlieb whose telephone number is (703) 305-4504. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM, (EST).

20. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald E. Adams Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-0570. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7939.

21. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Paul Gottlieb

Examiner

Art Unit 1813



PONNATHAPURA ACHUTAMURTHY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800

July 24, 1997